

REMARKS

Claims 1-133, 136, and 137 remain pending. Claims 39, 71-78, 137 and 139 have been amended, and Claims 134, 135, and 138-149 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. The changes made to Claims 39 and 71-74 merely correct a grammatical error, and the changes made to Claims 75-78 are merely for purposes of consistency. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by the claim amendments made herein.

The Examiner is thanked for allowing Claims 1-133 and 136.

Claims 138 and 140 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of Claims 139 and 141. Without conceding the propriety of these objections, the objected-to claims have been canceled, thereby rendering the objection moot.

The Office Action rejected Claims 137, 147 and 149 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Initially, Claim 137 has been amended as deemed necessary to ensure that it conforms fully with the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, that claim is now deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Without conceding the rejection of the remaining Claims 147 and 149, those claims have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

Withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

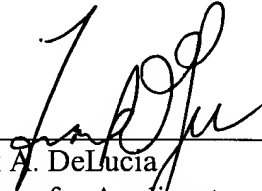
Claims 134, 135, and 138-149 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,472,803 (*Yoshizawa et al.*).

Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, each Claim 134, 135, and 138-149 has been canceled, thereby rendering its Section 102(e) rejection moot.

Accordingly, only claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance remain. Applicants respectfully request the expedited processing of this application, as well as favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue thereof.

Applicants' attorney of record may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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